

**BIOGRAPHY**

1957 –

Born in Abidjan (Ivory Coast), Ouattara Watts studied at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris (France). There he met fellow artist and friend Jean-Michel Basquiat, who encouraged Watts to move to New York.

Ouattara Watts has exhibited internationally, including at Documenta 11 in Kassel; the Whitney Biennial in New York; the Venice Biennale; the Hess Collection in Paarl (South Africa); and the New Museum in New York. His work was included in *Body of Evidence* at the National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., and *The Short Century: Independence and Liberation Movements in Africa, 1945-1994* at MoMA PS1 in New York.

Ouattara currently lives and works in New York City.

**Selected Solo Shows**

- 2018 1:54 African Contemporary Art Fair, Marrakech (Morocco): Sitor Senghor, Paris (France)  
Galerie Cécile Fakhory, Abidjan (Ivory Coast)  
Magazzino d'Arte Moderna, Rome (Italy)
- 2016 Magazzino d'Arte Moderna, Rome (Italy)
- 2015 Galerie Boulakia, Paris (France)
- 2014 1:54 African Contemporary Art Fair, London (UK): Sitor Senghor, Paris (France)
- 2013 French Institute Alliance Française. *The Project Room*. New York NY (USA)
- 2012 Vladimir Restoin Roitfeld, New York NY (USA) *Ouattara Watts ; Vertigo*
- 2010 Hess Art Collection, International Contemporary Art at Glen Carlou, Paarl (South Africa)
- 2009 Hess Art Collection, International Contemporary Art at Glen Carlou, Paarl (South Africa)
- 2008 Magazzino d'Arte Moderna, Roma (Italy)  
Galeria Leyendecker, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Canary Islands (Spain)  
Hess Art Collection, International Contemporary Art at Glen Carlou, Paarl (South Africa)
- 2007 Mike Weiss Gallery, New York NY (USA) *Ouattara Watts: For Lily*
- 2006 Mike Weiss Gallery, New York NY (USA) *Ouattara Watts: Works on Paper*
- 2004 Tracy Williams Gallery, New York, NY (USA)  
The Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover NH (USA) *Crossing Currents - The Synergy of Jean - Michel Basquiat and Ouattara Watts*,

- 2004 Magazzino d'Arte Moderna, Roma (Italy)  
Marella Arte Contemporanea, Milan (Italy)
- 2002 Leo Koenig, New York NY (USA)
- 1999 Magazzino d'Arte Moderna, Roma (Italy)
- 1998 Baldwin Gallery, Aspen CO (USA)
- 1996 The Kemper Museum, Kansas City MO (USA)
- 1995 Gagosian Gallery, New York NY (USA)
- 1994 University Art Museum, Berkeley CA (USA)
- 1993 Galerie Boulakia, Paris (France)
- 1992 Vrej Baghoomian Gallery, New York NY (USA)
- 1990 Galerie Boulakia, Paris (France)  
Akira Ikeda Gallery, Nagoya (Japan)  
Vrej Baghoomian, New York NY (USA)
- 1989 Marilyn Butler Gallery, Los Angeles CA (USA)
- 1986 Centre Culturel de la Rochelle, La Rochelle (France)

**Selected Group Shows**

- 2017 Venice Biennale (Italy) *The Juices of Time*  
100% Afriques, Paris (France) *Afrique Capitales*, curated by Simon Njami
- 2016 Dak'Art, Biennale de Dakar (Senegal)  
Armory Show NY (USA) : Magazzino d'Arte Moderna, Roma (Italy)
- 2011 Bertrand Delacroix Gallery, New York (US) *Ouattara Watts and Katy Schimert*
- 2010 *'In Dialogue' Four Generations of Painting*. curated by Peter Makebish, New York NY (USA)
- 2009 Armory Show NY (USA): Magazzino d'Arte Moderna, Roma (Italy)
- 2006 John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan WI (USA) *Intersections: Shifting Identity in Contemporary Art*.  
Mike Weiss Gallery, New York NY (USA) *Realm of the Spirit*.  
National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institute, Washington DC (USA) *Body of Evidence*.
- 2003 New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York NY (USA)
- 2002 Documenta 11, Kassel (Germany)  
Whitney Museum Biennale, New York NY (USA)  
P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City NY (USA) *The Short Century: Independence and Liberation Movements in Africa 1945-1994*.
- 2001 Gorney Bravin Lee, New York NY (USA)
- 1997 Fukui Fine Arts Museum, Fukui (Japan)

- 1997 Chiba Museum of Art, Chiba (Japan)
- 1994 Vrej Baghoomian Gallery, New York NY (USA) *Group Exhibition*.  
Centro Atlantico de Arte Moderno, Las Palmas Fundacion (Spain)  
*Un Altre Pais*.  
La Caixa, Palma de Mallorca, La Virreina Expositions, Barcelona (Spain)
- 1993 Venice Biennale (Italy)
- 1992 Calvin Morris Gallery, New York NY (USA) *Other Drums: Visionary Works*.  
Navara Gallery, New York NY (USA) *Haessle, Ouattara, Ray Smith*.
- 1991 The Alternative Museum, New York NY (USA) *Syncretism: The Art of the 20th Century*.  
Vrej Baghoomian Gallery, New York NY (USA) *Social Sculpture*.  
The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York NY (USA) *African Explores: New and Renewed Forms in the 20th Century Art*.  
Traveled exhibition: University Art Museum, Berkeley CA; Dallas TX; St. Louis Art Museum MO; Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte NC; The Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh PA; The Corcoran Museum of Art, Washington D.C., The Center of Fine Arts, Miami FL; Ludwig Forum, Aachen (Germany); Antoni Tapies Fondation, Barcelona (Spain); Espace Lyonnais d'Art Contemporain, Lyon (France); Tate Gallery, Liverpool (UK)
- 1990 Vrej Baghoomian Gallery, New York NY (USA) *It Must Give Pleasure Erotic Perceptions*.  
Patrick and Beatrice Haggerty Museum of Art, Milwaukee WI (USA) *Images of Death in Contemporary Art*.
- 1988 Vrej Baghoomian Gallery, New York NY (USA) *Summer Exhibition*.
- 1986 Galerie Georges Lavrov, Paris (France)
- 1985 Musée National des Arts Africains et Océaniens, Paris (France)

### **Books and Catalogs**

- 2010 Hess Art Collection, Donald Hess. Hatje Cantz Publishers
- 2007 Mike Weiss Gallery, NY. Illustrated catalog
- 2004 The Hood Museum of Art. Crossing Currents - *The Synergy of Jean-Michel Basquiat and Ouattara Watts*. Catalog
- 2003 New Museum. *Black President: Fela Anikulapokuti*.
- 2002 Cantz, Hatje. Documenta II Platform 5. Exhibition Catalog  
Prentice Abrams. 2002 *Biennial Exhibition Whitney Museum*, New York.
- 1999 Magazzino D'Arte Moderna. *Ouattara Watts in Roma*. Catalog
- 1995 Prentice Abrams. Art History.
- 1990 Abrams, Harry. New Art.  
Barrière, Gérard. *Ouattara*. Galerie Boulakia, Paris. Exhibition Catalog
- 1989 Warren, Ben Michel. *Ouattara*, Art Random. Kyoto Shoin, Kyoto

**Articles and Review**

- 2004 Carboni, Massimo. Art Forum, May  
Pancotto, Pier Paolo. Watts, *L'Ossessione Magica Dei Numeri*, L'Unita. Roma: February 4
- 2002 Princenthal, Nancy. Art in America, June  
Robinson, Walter. ArtNet.com Magazine Reviews, May 9  
Smith, Roberta. The New York Times, May 10  
Yablonsky, Linda. Art News, April  
Cotter, Holland. The New York Times, February 17  
Cunningham, Bill. The New York Times, March 17
- 2001 Cotter, Holland. The New York Times, July 27
- 2000 Kalman, Vanessa Rae. *See the Music Smock*. Premiere issue
- 1999 Il Messaggero. Roma, April
- 1998 Click, Carrie. Aspen Times, July
- 1997 Debailleux, H.F. *Ouattara Qaconge!* Libération, Paris, June
- 1996 Heartney, Eleonor. Art in America, January
- 1995 Arude, Fall, Volume 1, No 2.  
Enezor, Okwui. Beyond Shamanism, Nka Journal of Contemporary Art, Spring/Summer, No. 2  
The New Yorker, May 29  
Cotter, Holland. *Mix of Culture, Politics and Bravado*, The New York Times, May 19